

## **David and Michelle Baldacci Give \$1 Million to the Library of Virginia Foundation**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ann Henderson, Communications Manager, 804.692.3611, [ann.henderson@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:ann.henderson@lva.virginia.gov)

February 23, 2022 (Richmond, Virginia) – The Library of Virginia is thrilled to announce that David and Michelle Baldacci have made a gift of \$1 million to the Library through the Library of Virginia Foundation. This significant gift will help launch expanded programming and initiatives starting in the Library’s 200th anniversary year in 2023.

Upon making this gift, David and Michelle Baldacci say: “Growing up, libraries and reading had an enormous impact on us and significantly influenced who we became as adults. We are thrilled to support the Library of Virginia in its ongoing efforts to help lead the commonwealth through the new century, one reader and one curious mind at a time.”

In addition, a portion of this gift will go to establish the “David and Michelle Baldacci Vision Fund” to provide sustainable support to future initiatives such as the Library’s Diversity Fellowship and Internship Program, increasing statewide impact, and projects that expand and celebrate Virginia’s amazing literature and authors.

“The Foundation Board is profoundly grateful to Michelle and David for this transformational gift in support of the important work of the Library of Virginia,” said Library of Virginia Foundation Board President Lucia Anna “Pia” Trigiani. “As the steward of the commonwealth’s most important history, an advocate for its authors, and the connective tissue for the public libraries that serve every region of our commonwealth, the Library and her patrons will benefit from the kindness and generosity of these two Virginia treasures. This gift is a spark that will ignite the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Library in 2023 and bring one of Virginia’s best kept secrets to the people of the commonwealth.”

“I am deeply touched by David and Michelle’s most generous gift,” Librarian of Virginia Sandra Gioia Treadway said. “They are an amazing couple who have done so much to encourage writing, reading, and creativity across the commonwealth. We have been honored by David’s support for the Library going back to his days as a board member of the Virginia Center for the Book, his vision for our All Virginia Reads tribute to William

800 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

[www.lva.virginia.gov](http://www.lva.virginia.gov)

804.692.3500 *phone*  
804.692.3976 *tyx*

Styron in 2000, and his acceptance of our Literary Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017. David and Michelle's timely gift will allow us to tell Virginia's story in new and compelling ways to wider audiences and will ensure that the Library steps confidently into our third century next year."

"We are incredibly grateful to the Baldaccis for this extraordinary gift," said Scott Dodson, Executive Director of the Library of Virginia Foundation. "Their support will help the Library celebrate and reflect on its first 200 years while laying groundwork for the Library to thrive in the 21st century and beyond. David and Michelle are amazing partners whose energy about the Library is contagious. We are incredibly grateful for their belief in our work as Virginia's Library."

In total, David Baldacci has published 44 novels for adults; all have been national and international bestsellers, and several have been adapted for film and television. His novels are published in over 45 languages and in more than 80 countries, with 150 million copies sold worldwide. Baldacci has also published seven novels for young readers. A lifelong Virginian, he received his bachelor's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law, after which he practiced law in Washington, D.C.

In addition to being a prolific writer, Baldacci is a devoted philanthropist, and his greatest efforts are dedicated to his family's Wish You Well Foundation®. Established by Baldacci and his wife, Michelle, the Wish You Well Foundation supports family and adult literacy programs in the United States.

The Library of Virginia and Library of Virginia Foundation are incredibly grateful for this support.

###

### **About the Library of Virginia**

The Library of Virginia is one of the oldest agencies of Virginia government, founded in 1823 to preserve and provide access to the state's incomparable printed and manuscript holdings. Its collection, which has grown steadily through the years, is the most comprehensive resource in the world for the study of Virginia history, culture, and government with over 130 million items in the collections. The Library also engages the public through in-person and virtual events, education programs, and online resources that reach nearly 4 million individuals each year throughout the commonwealth and beyond.

**February 23, 2022**